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More employed but many grads jobless

New schemes planned to train the unemployed

ALTHOUGH the overall unemployment rate reduced from 3.4% last year to 3.1% for the first quarter of this year, the number of jobless graduates rose from 65,500 to 71,600, the Dewan Negara was told.

Deputy Human Resources Minister Datuk Maznah Mazlan said that in 2010, 387,900 Malaysians were unemployed and out of the figure, 65,500 were graduates.

"In the first quarter of this year, there were 381,300 unemployed of whom 71,600 were graduates," she told Senator Khoo Soo Seang who asked about the unemployment rate of graduates in the past two years and measures taken by the Government.

"According to international standards, as the rate is below 4%, Malaysia can be said to have full employment," said Maznah.

She added that the Government had undertaken several measures to help graduates such as offering 2,748 of them an opportunity to work with government agencies.

Apprenticeship and internship programmes were also emphasised as well as exposure to

entrepreneurship.

The latest initiative was the 1Malaysia training scheme, she said.

Under the scheme, graduates who could not get jobs would get training at government-linked corporations (GLCs) for a year.

For the first phase, 3,000 graduates would attend training by Bank Negara and 25 GLCs.

A study on Job Seekers' Attitudes in Peninsular Malaysia 2008 also revealed that graduates did not get jobs because they were more concerned with remuneration and perks.

The study by the Labour Department and Universiti Utara Malaysia also showed that they were not interested in jobs considered dirty, difficult and dangerous, she said.